

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. The Examiner has required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372. Applicants hereby elect with traverse group I, namely claims 1-13, drawn to separation matrices. Applicants hereby withdraw the non-elected claims 14-28 and reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications on these claims.

With regard to the restriction, the Examiner states that the claims are either anticipated or obvious in view of Yamamoto (US 4,725,355). Applicants submit that Yamamoto does not disclose any ligand where an R group of the sulphonyl is an aliphatic compound. The ligands in Yamamoto are all described by the generic formula in column 4, lines 5-10 and it clearly shows a sulfonamide where the R group of the sulphonyl is aromatic. The group denoted R₂ in the Yamamoto formula is an R group of the amine and hence not relevant either. Thus Yamamoto does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. The restriction requirement should be reconsidered.

Further, Applicants submit that Group II, claims 14-16, relate to a chromatography column packed with the separation matrix of claim 1. Applicants submit that since these claims depend on claim 1, there is no undue burden for the Examiner to consider claims 14-16 with claims 1-13.

The Examiner further requested several elections of species. For Election I, Applicants elect, without traverse, "polyamine" as the ligand species for prosecution. Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 12-13 read on the elected species, while claims 1-5, 9 and 12-13 are generic.

For Election II, Applicants elect, without traverse, "nitrogen" as the coupler species for prosecution. Claims 1, 2, 4-13 read on the elected species, while claims 1, 4-13 are generic.

Applicants assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of claims 1-13.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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